

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is a Response to the Office Action mailed February 22, 2006, in which a three (3) month Shortened Statutory Period for Response has been set, due to expire May 22, 2006. Nine (9) claims, including three (3) independent claims, were paid for in the application. Claim 8 has been canceled. No new matter has been added to the application. No fee for additional claims is due by way of this Amendment. The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090. Upon entry of the amendments herewith, claims 1-3, 7, and 10-11 remain pending.

1. Acknowledgement of Allowed Claims and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-3, 7, and 10-11, as noted in the Office Action.

2. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by *Ahn et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,346,367). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Various features of claim 8 are clearly patentable over the asserted prior art reference, *Ahn et al.* However, to reduce the number of disputed issues and to *facilitate early allowance and issuance* of the allowed claims in the present application, claim 8 is canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection to this claim is rendered moot.

Applicants *reserve the right* to pursue the subject matter of this canceled claim, and related subject matter, in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose. Applicants *do not intend* to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public, or surrender any of the canceled subject matter, in view of the above-traversed allegation that claim 8 is anticipated by *Ahn et al.*

3. Conclusion

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-3, 7, and 10-11. In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that all pending claims 1-3, 7, and 10-11 are allowable. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request allowance of the instant application. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Armentrout by telephone to resolve any remaining issues or to correct any informalities in the Specification.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC



Raymond W. Armentrout
Registration No. 45,866

RWA:jr

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300
Seattle, Washington 98104-7092
Phone: (206) 622-4900
Fax: (206) 682-6031

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